

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMAKO 00135 140232Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3030

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 135

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, FR, ML

SUBJ: LOUIS DALLIER, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO CHAD

REF: PARIS 777

1. DALLIER WAS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN BAMAKO FOR MORE THAN 2 YEARS. HE DID AN IMPECCABLE JOB IN THAT CAPACITY.

2. DALLIER WAS VERY CLOSE TO THIS EMBASSY AND WAS ALWAYS EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND OPEN IN HIS DEALINGS WITH ME. HE AND ELIANE BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS WITH US. HE WAS AN AVOWED GAULLIST BUT NONETHELESS WAS PRO-NATO AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S. HE WAS FAR AND AWAY THE BEST INFORMED DIPLOMAT IN BAMAKO ON MALIAN AFFAIRS AND HAD GREAT INFLUENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT HERE. HE UNDERSTANDS AND READS ENGLISH AND CAN IN FACT SPEAK IT, THOUGH HE GREATLY PREFERS TO SPEAK FRENCH. HE ALSO SPEAKS ARABIC. HE IS MODERATE IN HIS HABITS BUT, INTERSTINGLY, THOROUGHLY ENJOYS GOOD AMERICAN BOURBON. HE HAS AN ARTHRITIC HIP RESULTING FROM A WAR WOUND. HE IS AN AVID HUNTER AND THE JOKE IN BAMAKO IS THAT THE ELEPHANTS IN CHAD WERE GIVEN TWO WEEKS NOTICE OF HIS ARRIVAL. THE DALLIER'S ENTERTAIN VERY WELL AND ENJOY VERY INFORMAL GATHERINGS AS WELL AS FORMAL AFFAIRS.

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3. ELIANE DALLIER HAS A RATHER FORBIDDING APPEARANCE
BUT IN FACT IS GAY AND FUNLOVING WHEN HER HEALTH PERMITS.
SHE SUFFERED SOMEWHAT FROM THE CLIMATE AND THEIR LONG TENURE
IN BAMAKO AND WAS FREQUENTLY ABSENT FROM THE COUNTRY.
WHEN THEY LEFT BAMAKO, DALLIER WAS HOPING FOR A POST IN
NORTHERN EUROPE.

FOR AMBASSADOR LITTLE: GIVE THEM OUR BEST AND I KNOW YOU
WILL ENJOY KNOWING THEM.
MCGUIRE

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